



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

Naatsis'aani, Oljato, Shonto, Ts'ah bii kin Regional Council Meeting
March 6, 2022



WELCOME MESSAGE

As we continue to persevere through the COVID-19 pandemic, we continue to offer our prayers for all of our Diné people to remain strong, hopeful, and resilient. While the COVID-19 pandemic reminds us of our shared challenges, it also demonstrates how kinship, resiliency, and compassion connects each of us during difficult times. As Diné, we have stood against many adversities and overcome many challenges and we continue to move forward just as our ancestors and elders did long ago.

Prior to the pandemic, we would gather together with relatives, friends, and community members to share meals and stories, but in this new year we have to take precautions to protect our elders and family members. We ask you to please wear masks, practice social distancing, get fully vaccinated, and be very careful to help reduce the risks associated with COVID-19.

We may miss our relatives and friends, but we must stay vigilant and safe. This may be challenging, but may it also serve as a reminder of the blessings of our families and well-being. We must remain positive and encourage each other to make tomorrow better than today and to make the future better for our children.

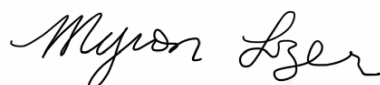
During this time, consider and reflect on how our ancestors led the way forward through the practices of T'áá hwó' ajít'éego, or self-reliance, K'é, kinship, Tsodizin, prayer, and other principles during hard times. Our Navajo values and principles make us people of hope, faith, strength, and compassion. Therefore, we must stand united to combat the modern-day monsters that plague our communities. With positive thoughts and actions, let us be the people our ancestors and elders need us to be in the time of hardship. They have blessed us with discipline, prayers, and teachings to move forward, and we have all the tools needed to ensure a better future for future generations.

We can do this as we stand united because our ancestors have done it before. They have worked hard, sacrificed, and invested in what they believed would make a difference for us. That is who we are as sacred people. We are embedded with discipline, resilience, strength, compassion, and faith. In these moments, we use these sacred teachings to move forward towards a brighter and healthier future.

With this message, we wish every family many blessings, good health, and prayers. Ahee'hee'



JONATHAN NEZ
NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT



MYRON LIZER
NAVAJO NATION VICE PRESIDENT

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40 NEW CASES, 50,601 RECOVERIES, AND NO RECENT DEATHS RELATED TO COVID-19

On Friday, the Navajo Department of Health, in coordination with the Navajo Epidemiology Center and the Navajo Area Indian Health Service, reported 40 new COVID-19 cases for the Navajo Nation and no recent deaths. The total number of deaths is 1,651. The report indicates that 50,601 individuals have recovered from COVID-19. 497,395 COVID-19 tests have been administered. The overall total number of positive COVID-19 cases is now 52,591, including five delayed reported cases.

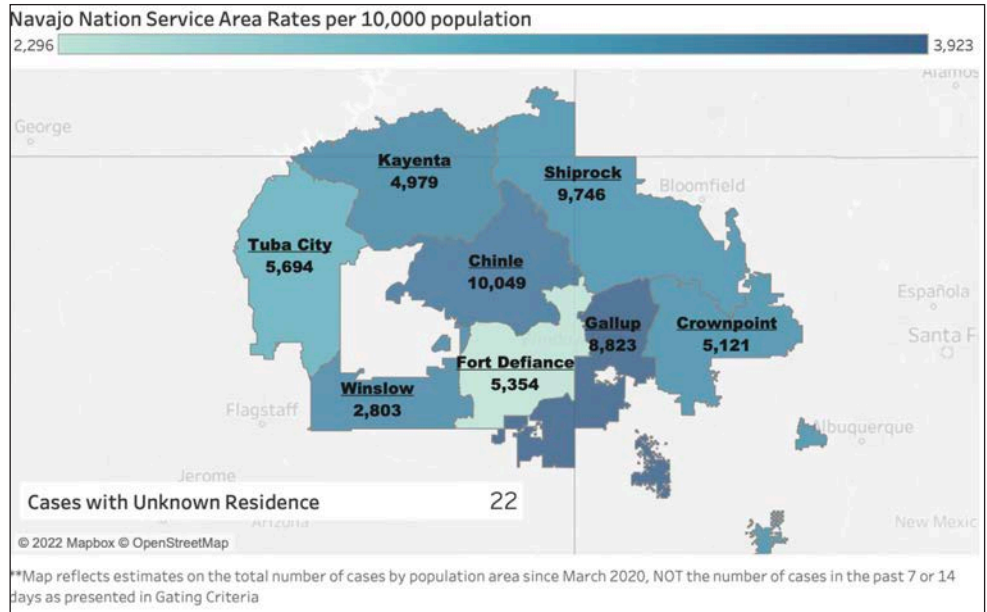
Navajo Nation COVID-19 positive cases by Service Unit:

- Chinle Service Unit: 10,049
- Crownpoint Service Unit: 5,121
- Ft. Defiance Service Unit: 5,354
- Gallup Service Unit: 8,823
- Kayenta Service Unit: 4,979
- Shiprock Service Unit: 9,746
- Tuba City Service Unit: 5,694
- Winslow Service Unit: 2,803

* 22 residences with COVID-19 positive cases are not specific enough to place them accurately in a Service Unit.

On Friday, the state of New Mexico reported 381 new cases and Utah reported 261 new cases. The state of Arizona now reports COVID-19 cases on a weekly basis, each Wednesday. The Office of the President and Vice President will distribute PPEs on Saturday, March 5th at 10:00 a.m. (MST) at the Crownpoint Health Care Facility during the IHS COVID-19 drive-thru vaccine event.

“We are seeing low numbers of COVID-19 infections, but we have to keep our guard up and be prepared at all times. If you go into public places, whether you are on the Navajo Nation or off, please wear a mask and do your best to practice social distancing. We do not want to lose any more lives to this modern-day monster that we call COVID-19. Through the strength of our people, we are persisting through these challenging times and we will be stronger because of it. Please be safe and take precautions,” said Navajo



Nation President Jonathan Nez.

Health care facilities on the Navajo Nation continue to administer COVID-19 vaccines. If you would like to receive one of the COVID-19 vaccines, please contact your health care provider and schedule an appointment.

“Thank you to all of our health care workers who continue to work around the clock and put themselves at risk for others. Because of your dedication and commitment, we are seeing lower numbers of new cases of COVID-19. Please continue to practice safety measures to protect yourselves and others and please continue to pray for our people and our communities,” said Vice President Myron Lizer.

For more information, including helpful prevention tips, and resources to help stop the spread of COVID-19, visit the Navajo Department of Health’s COVID-19 website: <http://www.ndoh.navajo-nsn.gov/COVID-19>. For COVID-19 related questions and information, call (928) 871-7014.

FACT SHEET | COVID-19 OMICRON VARIANT (B.1.1.529)

VARIANTS
Multiple variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have emerged and are circulating throughout the world. The emergence of variants is a natural process and is to be expected when viral spread is not contained.

THE OMICRON VARIANT (B.1.1.529)
• Has been designated as a variant of concern (VOC) in the U.S.
• Has been found in multiple countries and in multiple U.S. States.
• Appears to be able to spread quickly and to cause infection in people who have previously had COVID-19 infection.

STUDIES ARE UNDERWAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE OMICRON VARIANT. WHAT WE KNOW RIGHT NOW IS:
• **Vaccination is the best way** to protect against COVID-19.
• It is expected that available COVID-19 vaccines will continue to provide meaningful protection against severe disease and hospitalization from Omicron. We will provide more information on this as it becomes available.
• The best way to prevent the spread of any variant is to get vaccinated, get a booster if you are eligible, and wear a mask in indoor public settings or in a crowded environment.
• Available COVID-19 tests can detect known variants, but it will not tell you which variant you have.

TOGETHER WE CAN SLOW THE SPREAD OF THIS VARIANT. REMEMBER TO:
• Get vaccinated, including a booster if you're eligible. Contact your local health facility or an appointment.
• Everyone 5 years and older should get vaccinated.
• Everyone 18 years and older are recommended to get a booster.
• Wear a well-fitted mask.
• Wash your hands, or use hand sanitizer.
• Limit indoor gatherings and avoid poorly ventilated or crowded areas.
• Watch your distance by staying 6 feet from others you don't live with.
• Get tested if you have symptoms of COVID-19 or have been exposed.

DIKOS NTSAGIIL-19
NAVAJO HEALTH COMMAND OPERATIONS CENTER
2025 N. 1st St.
Bldg. 2000 Shiprock, NM 86701
www.navajodhs.gov/COVID-19

PRESIDENT NEZ AND VICE PRESIDENT LIZER WELCOME U.S. SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR GUZMAN TO THE NAVAJO NATION

On February 22, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Division of Economic Development Executive Director JT Willie welcomed Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman, the head of the U.S. Small Business Administration, to the Navajo Nation to discuss the economic impact of the Biden-Harris Administration's American Rescue Plan Act and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and to hear concerns and recommendations directly from Navajo entrepreneurs and business owners. The meetings were held at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz. and marked Administrator Guzman's first official visit to the Navajo Nation since being appointed by President Biden in January 2021.

Administrator Guzman was joined by the SBA's Office of Native American Affairs Assistant Administrator Jackson S. Brossy, who is a member of the Navajo Nation and the former Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Washington Office, who is responsible for providing support for Native Americans to develop and expand small businesses and to ensure that they have full access to the necessary business development and expansion tools available through the agency's entrepreneurial development, lending, and procurement programs.

"We have many intelligent and gifted Navajo people who are striving to create and grow their businesses and give back to our people and communities in the form of jobs, revenue, and the goods and services they provide. Through their commitment and innovation, our entrepreneurs persist through the federal and tribal red tape that hinders progress. Together, we are working with the Biden-Harris Administration to create solutions and one example is a white paper that our administration developed outlining regulations that need to be updated, which is being considered by the White House and our congressional leaders. We had a productive discussion with Administrator Guzman, Assistant Administrator Brossy, and our Navajo entrepreneurs who represent a big part of our local economy," said President Nez.

During the visit, President Nez, Vice President Lizer, and Administrator Guzman also met with Navajo business owners who comprise the Dineh Chamber of Commerce, which was created to provide a voice for Navajo-owned businesses to create positive working relationships with businesses, organizations, and governments doing business on or near the Navajo Nation.

Vice President Lizer, a long-time business owner, spoke about the need to create an "economic bubble" where Navajo people can stay close to home and have access to more products and services to help promote and sustain the "Buy Navajo, Buy Local" initiative. He also commended the recent revisions to the Buy Indian Act, which allows federal agencies to set-aside procurement contracts for Native American owned and controlled businesses, eliminates some restrictions on specific construction contracts, and expands opportunities for subcontracts.

"It's wonderful that a handful of Navajo entrepreneurs had this



opportunity to let their issues and recommendations be heard by Administrator Guzman. None of these issues are new, but they need to be heard at this level of government to create the changes that are necessary to support economic growth and sustainability. We have an all-hands-on deck mentality when it comes to working together with business owners and those who aspire to one day own a business," said Vice President Lizer.

Dalvin Etsitty, a member of the Navajo Nation who owns and operates Antelope Canyon Navajo tours in LeChee, Ariz., spoke about the challenges with complying with federal regulations and requirements to develop water, electric, and wastewater infrastructure for his business. He stated that he was able to drill a water well to provide running water, but continues to experience challenges with a wastewater system.

Dineh Chamber of Commerce interim chair Lydelle Davies said the COVID-19 pandemic relief funds for businesses highlighted the vast number of Navajo business owners and artisans. According to the Division of Economic Development, over 7,000 Navajo business owners and artisans received relief funds through the CARES Act due to the pandemic.

Michael Smiley with Navajo Electric, Darrell Brown with Denny's restaurant, Kristine Laughter with Change Labs, National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development Board chair Derrick Watchman, Diné Development Corporation CEO Austin Tsosie, Diné College President Dr. Monty Roessel, Coconino County Supervisor Lena Fowler, and Coral Evans with U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly's Office were also part of the roundtable discussion.

During her visit to the Navajo Nation, Administrator Guzman also visited several Navajo-owned businesses including Ah-Shí Beauty store and Naatsedlozii Convenience Store. She also met with members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and the Division of Economic Development.

ARPA HARDSHIP AND CIB TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE DRIVES TO BE HELD IN TUCSON

The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller and Office of Vital Records & Identification will be hosting the next American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Hardship and CIB Technical Assistance Drive on March 3 and March 4, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Arizona Forge at Roy Place in Tucson, Ariz., to provide help with completing and submitting applications for ARPA Hardship Assistance and to apply for a Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB). COVID-19 protocols will be in place and all attendees are required to wear a face mask at all times.

“On behalf of the Nez-Lizer Administration, we extend our appreciation to the University of Arizona Native American Advancement and Tribal Engagement Vice President N. Levi Esquerre for co-hosting the event with the Navajo Nation. Many of our Navajo citizens reside in metropolitan areas, and many do not have the resources or transportation to obtain technical assistance for the ARPA Hardship Assistance or tribal enrollment process. We anticipate a large number of people so please be patient and expect some waiting time. Personnel continue to work long hours to process a high volume of documents as quickly as possible and to provide the necessary assistance,” said Navajo Nation Division of Human Resources Executive Director Dr. Perphelia Fowler.

Other upcoming Navajo Nation ARPA Hardship and CIB Technical Assistance Drives are scheduled at the following locations:

- March 3 to 4, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Arizona Forge at Roy Place (44 N Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701)
- April 7 to 8, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Southern Indian Polytechnic Institute (9169 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120)
- April 14 to 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake (120 W 1300 S St., Salt Lake City, UT 84115)
- April 28 to 29, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Denver Indian Center Inc. (4407 Morrison Rd., Denver, CO 80219)

On Feb. 17 and 18, OOC and Office of Vital Records & Identification provided assistance for approximately 590 families in Phoenix, Ariz. Due to the very high demand for services, more dates will be announced for more technical assistance events in Phoenix.

President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution CD-62-21 into law last month, approving \$557 million for the ARPA Hardship Assistance to provide direct financial relief



Navajo Nation
ARPA Hardship & CIB
Technical Assistance
Drive

The Navajo Nation Office of the Controller and Office of Vital Records & Identification are pleased to announce a series of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Hardship and CIB Technical Assistance Drives in nearby cities, to provide help with completing and submitting applications for ARPA Hardship Assistance and to apply for a Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB). COVID-19 protocols will be in place and all attendees are required to wear a face mask at all times.

Background Information:
On Jan. 4, 2022, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution CD-62-21, approving \$557 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds for Hardship Assistance to provide direct financial relief for the Navajo people, to help mitigate the devastating effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The funding will provide \$2,000 in hardship assistance for adults and \$600 for minors, who are enrolled members of the Navajo Nation.



Upcoming Technical Assistance Drives:

March 3 - 4, 2022
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Arizona Forge at Roy Place
44 N Stone Ave., Tucson, AZ 85701
(Location is one block south of the Tucson Indian Center)

April 7 - 8, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute
9169 Coors Blvd. NW, Albuquerque NM 87120

April 14 - 15, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Urban Indian Center of Salt Lake
120 W 1300 S St., Salt Lake City, UT 84115

April 28 - 29, 2022 | 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Denver Indian Center Inc.
4407 Morrison Rd., Denver, CO 80219

Processing of new CIB enrollments will be on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE basis

A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) sheet is available online at: <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/News-Media/Latest-News> to provide answers regarding updates to mailing addresses, contact information to obtain a CIB & more.

To find more information related to the Navajo Nation ARPA Hardship, visit the website at:
<https://navajonationarpa.org>

for the Navajo people to help mitigate the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The funding provides \$2,000 for adults who are 18 years and older on or before January 4, 2022 and \$600 for minors who are enrolled members of the Navajo Nation. New applicants must complete/sign the ARPA Hardship Program application and submit no later than December 30, 2022.

The Office of the Controller completed the mailing of ARPA Hardship Assistance checks in the amount of \$2,000 for approximately 46,000 Navajo elders, who are 60 years and older and who previously received the CARES Act Hardship Assistance. The next step is printing and mailing of hardship assistance checks for all other previous recipients.

Personnel at the technical assistance sites will provide guidance on ARPA Hardship and CIB inquiries, including change of address forms, printing and

copying services, and individual concerns related to the application process and tribal enrollment.

The technical assistance drives will not include any type of check distributions. In addition, applicants seeking to enroll with the Navajo Nation, obtain a copy of their CIB, or update their tribal enrollment information will be required to provide original records of Birth/Death Certificates, Marriage Licenses, Divorce Decrees, or other court-ordered documents.

The Navajo Office of Vital Records will not be able to provide same-day CIB's due to additional necessary verification to be conducted by agency offices. The ARPA Hardship Application form is available on the Office of the Controller website at <https://www.nnooc.org> and on the ARPA website at <https://www.navajonationarpa.org>. A Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's) sheet is available online at <https://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/Portals/0/FILES/Latest%20News/FAQs%20Hardship%20Assistance.pdf>.

If you have further questions, please contact the Office of the Controller by e-mail at ARPAHardship@nnooc.org or call (928) 871-6106, (928) 871-6315, (928) 223-3525, (928) 224-8148, (928) 224-8187, (928) 224-8212, (928) 371-9226, (928) 223-3709, or (928) 223-3712. Please contact the Navajo Office of Vital Records & ID at (928) 871-6386 or visit their website at <https://www.novri.navajo-nsn.gov> for more information regarding tribal enrollment.

MAILING OF \$2,000 ARPA HARDSHIP ASSISTANCE CHECKS FOR NAVAJO ELDERS NEARLY COMPLETED

On February 24, the Navajo Nation Office of the Controller will complete the mailing of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Hardship Assistance checks in the amount of \$2,000 for approximately 46,000 Navajo elders, who are 60 years and older and who previously received the CARES Act Hardship Assistance.

The next phase will be the printing of checks for previous hardship assistance recipients below the age of 60 years, with the exception of new applicants and individuals that have outstanding issues such as changes to their mailing address. OOC has also hired temporary staff members to help with the processing of the ARPA Hardship Assistance.



“The Office of the Controller has many dedicated employees who work weekends and holidays to expedite the processing of hardship assistance checks, in addition to many other daily tasks. I appreciate their diligence and commitment as this challenging process continues. We understand that many families are in need of financial relief and we are working as quickly as possible,” said Controller Elizabeth Begay.

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed Resolution CD-62-21 into law, approving \$557 million for the ARPA Hardship Assistance to provide direct financial relief for the Navajo people to help mitigate the effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The funding provides \$2,000 for adults, who are 18 years and older on or before January 4, 2022 and \$600 for minors who are enrolled members of the Navajo Nation.

“With hardship assistance checks going out to our elders, it’s very unfortunate and disheartening to receive reports of elders being mistreated by their own family members. The hardship assistance funds are intended to help everyone during this pandemic, especially our elderly parents and grandparents. Our teachings tell us to honor, love, and respect our elders. Please have respect for your elders and help them just as they’ve helped us in so many ways. As these funds continue to be distributed, please use the funds for essential items and services to help all of us overcome this pandemic,” said President Nez.

The Office of the Controller will continue accepting new applications for the ARPA Hardship Assistance Program for enrolled members of the Navajo Nation, who did not previously receive Hardship Assistance. New applicants must complete/sign the ARPA Hardship Program application and submit no later than December 30, 2022. Applications available at: <https://www.nnooc.org>.

“Please encourage your elders to take safety measures in public places to protect themselves and others from COVID-19. We strongly encourage everyone to ‘Buy Navajo, Buy Local’ to help our Navajo businesses and entrepreneurs and to provide a boost to our local economy. The dollars that are spent within the Navajo Nation provide tax revenue that helps our first responders, scholarship recipients, and many other services in our communities,” said Vice President Lizer.

The Office of the Controller continues to receive inquiries regarding previous hardship assistance recipients who are now deceased. If a hardship assistance check is received for a deceased recipient, please return the check to the Office of the Controller by mail to: Navajo Nation Office of the Controller, P.O. Box 3150, Window Rock, Arizona 86515.

If you have further questions, please contact the Office of the Controller by e-mail at ARPAHardship@nnooc.org or call (928) 871-6106, (928) 871-6315, (928) 223-3525, (928) 224-8148, (928) 224-8187, (928) 224-8212, (928) 371-9226, (928) 223-3709, or (928) 223-3712. Please contact the Navajo Office of Vital Records & ID at (928) 871-6386 or visit their website at <https://www.novri.navajo-nsn.gov> for more information regarding tribal enrollment.

PRESIDENT NEZ AND COCONINO COUNTY OFFICIALS FINALIZE A FIVE-YEAR MOU FOR TRANSPORTATION PRIORITIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Coconino County Board of Supervisors Chair Matt Ryan signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Flagstaff, Ariz. on Friday, establishing the framework for the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation and Coconino County to collaborate on road maintenance, repairs, and other transportation initiatives that are mutually beneficial. The MOU was signed with members of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and Coconino County Board of Supervisors in attendance.

“This MOU lays the foundation for future partnerships and for the \$1.2 trillion Infrastructure Law passed by Congress and signed by President Biden. This partnership is crucial to leverage funding and resources to improve and maintain roadways on the Navajo Nation, within Coconino County. We have to work hard to make this MOU effective in the long-term. I appreciate the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Director Garret Silversmith, the 24th Navajo Nation Council, and all of the road work crews,” said President Nez.

There are over 1,700 miles of dirt and paved roadways within Coconino County and the Navajo Nation. The MOU also establishes a work group composed of representatives to carry out the objectives, which includes planning, repairing, and improving existing school bus routes.

NDOT Director Garret Silversmith stated, “Navajo Division of Transportation appreciates the re-establishment and continuation of this MOU with Coconino County for another five years. This renewed MOU is the result of a continued partnership and coordination of President Nez, 24th Navajo Nation Council, and the leadership of the County and the Board of Supervisors. The previous MOU produced successful results that included the completion of transportation improvement projects, and the incorporation of safety aspects into each of these ventures. Thank you, Navajo Nation, County officials, and community members.”

“Coconino County values its important partnership with the Navajo Nation. On behalf of the Coconino County Board of Supervisors, I want to thank President Nez and the Navajo Nation Council for their continued commitment to partnerships with the County, especially when it comes to maintenance and improvement of our roads. Roads get our children to school, our families together with their elders, and connects to the market and jobs. This MOU will allow Coconino County to continue advancing important transportation projects with the Navajo Nation and promote continued collaboration between our governments. We thank and congratulate President Nez on signing and renewing this important agreement,” said Coconino County Board of Supervisors Chair Matt Ryan.



Council Delegate Paul Begay, who serves as a member of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee and represents chapters within Coconino County, recalled several school buses getting stuck along N21 after heavy rain or snowfall in the western portion of the Navajo Nation, which led to costly bus repairs for school districts. Council Delegates Thomas Walker, Jr. and Amber Kanazbah Crotty were also in attendance to show their support for the partnership.

“This successful partnership with the Navajo Nation remains a vital priority. I am so thankful for the extension of the MOU with the Navajo Nation for another five years. The signing of this agreement allows the county to continue to improve 286 miles of school bus routes, which are the main roads on Western Navajo. Thank you to Navajo Nation President Nez, the Navajo Nation Council, and the Nation for their important partnership on this MOU,” stated Coconino County Board of Supervisors Vice Chair Lena Fowler.

President Nez joined the county officials in recognizing and honoring the Coconino County Navajo Roads Team that maintains and improves roadways on a daily basis. The team members include Carlos Paddock, Ernest Graymountain, Jeremiah Sangster, Jimmie Honanie, and Juan Williams.

FIRST LADY NEZ AND SECOND LADY LIZER COMMEND NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR'S APPROVAL OF BILLS TO ADDRESS MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS WOMEN AND RELATIVES

Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez and Second Lady Dottie Lizer extend their appreciation to New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham for signing into law Senate Bill 12, establishing a position within the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General to address missing and murdered Indigenous women and relative (MMIWR) cases in the state, and signing Senate Bill 13, establishing an annual event, "Missing in New Mexico Event," to raise awareness of MMIWR cases.

First Lady Nez, who continues to serve as one of the original New Mexico MMIWR Task Force members since its creation in 2019, stated that two bills are necessary because Native American women in New Mexico have the highest rate of homicide among all racial and ethnic groups and are more than twice as likely to be the victim of violent crime under the current system.

"There is a demand for justice for survivors, victims, and their relatives. It is important to build upon strong networks to support the efforts to identify, report, and find missing Indigenous persons and increase support for families and survivors. These bills move us a step closer to healing our families and communities. We are very thankful to the state legislators, Governor Lujan Grisham, and all of the grassroots organizers and families that continue to raise awareness," said First Lady Nez.

Senate Bill 12 creates the position of an Indigenous Persons Specialist within the Office of the New Mexico Attorney General, to improve case management and law enforcement collaboration of MMIWR cases. The specialist will work collaboratively with all federal, state, and tribal law enforcement agencies and assist in investigating and prosecuting MMIWR cases, including the Navajo Nation.

On Feb. 4, President Jonathan Nez and First Lady Nez met with Gov. Lujan Grisham, House Speaker Brian Egolf (D-Dist. 47), and state legislators at the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe, N.M. to advocate for legislative priorities on behalf of the Navajo Nation, including Senate Bill 12 and 13.

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we thank Governor Lujan Grisham and our legislators for recognizing the importance of reuniting, restoring, and healing tribal families and communities through these historical bills. Working together with the New Mexico Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Task Force, we continue to address MMIWR issues, including the need to close gaps where missing persons cases often fall into, identifying jurisdictional misinterpretations, fostering coordination among tribal nations, and developing innovative strategies to assist law enforcement. Today, with the support of New Mexico leaders, we move closer to minimizing the number of unsolved MMIWR cases and to begin healing families," said President Nez.

The new laws will further strengthen partnerships and increase collaborations among tribal governments and reporting mechanisms for quicker notification of MMIWR cases, allowing missing persons to join back their loved ones effectively and efficiently.

"We are glad that Indian Country regarding MMIW is finally being recognized. Within three years, we worked closely with state and federal leaders to bring awareness. We also commend the Trump Administration for bringing this awareness to the forefront and for the Biden/Harris Administration for continuing this important and urgent work - our relations deserve it. I appreciate and thank Governor Lujan Grisham for the two bills being signed today to bring awareness of MMIWR to the great state of New Mexico," said Second Lady Lizer.

The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President extends its appreciation to New Mexico State Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (D-Dist. 3), Sen. Linda M. Lopez (D-Dist. 11), and Rep. Andrea Romero (D-Dist. 46) for sponsoring the bills, and Secretary of Indian Affairs Lynn Trujillo, the MMIWR task force members, partners, and volunteers, for providing recommendations regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Relatives that affects many tribal communities throughout the state of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation.

PRESIDENT NEZ RECOGNIZES CONTRIBUTIONS OF SOCIAL WORKERS WITH "NAVAJO NATION SOCIAL WORK MONTH" PROCLAMATION

On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed a proclamation recognizing the month of March 2022 as the "Navajo Nation Social Work Month," to honor all social workers who strive to preserve and restore harmony and unity of Navajo individuals and families.

The proclamation states that social workers continue to improve the well-being and enhance the quality of life of Navajo families. Most importantly, recognizing their work and dedication to help heal people and communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Social workers are needed more than ever during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the leadership of Navajo Nation Division of Social Services Executive Director Deannah Neswood-Gishey, many social workers provided essential services to support and strengthen Navajo families impacted by illness, fear, uncertainty, social isolation, economic uncertainty, and mental health issues. They strive to improve the overall welfare of our citizens by assisting with everyday problems," said President Nez.

President Nez added that the Navajo Nation recognizes and honors all social workers for their sacrifices and dedication to combat many of the “modern-day monsters” such as alcoholism, drug addiction, depression, suicide, and many others within Navajo communities.

The Navajo Nation Division of Social Services provides quality, holistic, culture, and value-based services to empower and strengthen children, families, and communities.

“This proclamation demonstrates to the community the value of social workers and the work they do for our people. They have the unique ability and skill to treat individuals, communities, and the world. Social workers serve throughout our communities in various capacities, including case managers, advocates, educators, facilitators, managers, and others. It’s often overlooked that social workers are the largest providers of mental health care in the country and the Navajo Nation,” said Vice President Lizer.

The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks all social workers, advocates, and all who provide support for Navajo families and children. For information regarding Navajo Nation Division of Social Services and resources, please visit <https://www.nndss.navajo-nsn.gov>.

PRESIDENT NEZ MEETS WITH THE WHITE HOUSE’S TOP INFRASTRUCTURE OFFICIAL

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez was joined by Division Directors on February 10, during a virtual meeting with the White House’s Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Implementation Coordinator Mitch Landrieu, who was recently appointed by U.S. President Joe Biden to oversee and implement the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was passed by Congress last November.

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we thank the Biden-Harris Administration for recognizing the Navajo peoples’ infrastructural priorities and providing guidance on the implementation of the Infrastructure Law, which invests more than \$11 billion in Indian Country for transportation, broadband, energy, water and sanitation facilities, and climate resiliency. With the partnership of Mitch Landrieu, who has a proven record of being able to oversee massive infrastructure funding and projects, I am confident that we will see many improvements for future generations. Our Administration has been working diligently to identify funding opportunities to leverage funding for our communities,” said President Nez.

Landrieu is the former mayor of New Orleans, who is credited with leading the city’s recovery from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. He helped too fast-track over 100 projects and secured billions in funding for roads, schools, hospitals, parks, and infrastructure.

President Nez also commended the Biden-Harris Administration for investing nearly \$725 million annually over the next 15 years, through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, for the U.S. Department of the Interior to create jobs and accelerate economic opportunities by reclaiming abandoned mine lands (AML) within 22 states, including the Navajo Nation. The Navajo Nation was the only tribal Nation to be included among the states, and is set to receive \$1.6 million over 15 years to address reclamation needs.

During the discussion, Landrieu highlighted the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law guidebook, which contains comprehensive information on more than 375 programs to help state, local, and tribal governments.

Last week, President Nez also spoke about the Infrastructure Law during the White House Council on Native American Affairs’ virtual inaugural engagement session, which provided an opportunity for tribal leaders to have meaningful input on the policies and deliveries of the Biden-Harris Administration. He highlighted the Nez-Lizer Administration’s transportation white paper titled, “Diné Atiin Bahane: Navajo Road Emergence,” which requests the federal government to enact seven specific policy changes to improve the Navajo Nation’s transportation system.

“Infrastructure is the primary building block of our tribal communities. This investment will help rebuild roads and bridges that our people need to access basic services and lay the foundation for many communities to receive broadband and water delivery for the first time. While funding is made possible, we also need to address the burdensome red tape that exists. Federal laws and regulations continue to slow the progress of projects. We will continue working with the White House and our congressional delegation to streamline federal processes to lessen the administrative burden placed on tribes,” added President Nez.



NAVAJO NATION GARNERS \$3 MILLION RETURN ON AGRICULTURE INSURANCE INVESTMENT

Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer and officials with the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture met with CKP Insurance, LLC agency principal Chuck Hemphill in Phoenix, Ariz. on Thursday, to mark the successful return on the Navajo Nation's investment in agricultural insurance coverage.

The Department of Agriculture applied for the insurance coverage through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Pasture, Rangeland, Forage Insurance Program. The Navajo Nation adopted the Sihasin Fund Pasture Rangeland and Forage Expenditure Plan in 2016, which reserved \$20 million from the Nation's Sihasin Fund for insurance premiums to the USDA through CKP Insurance, LLC.

The latest return totals approximately \$3.3 million, which helps to fund the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Programs that are administered by the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture, in coordination with the Division of Community Development, to support Navajo livestock owners, farmers, and agriculture users.

"The Navajo Nation continues to garner financial support from the USDA. The funding will continue to be utilized for grazing and agriculture assistance for Navajo people. I am confident with the Navajo Nation's Department of Agriculture's implementation of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund to support and enhance food sustainability, the agriculture economy, land management and much more. The indemnity will continue to provide the great catch-up for the Navajo Nation to prioritize the agricultural land, livestock and water for years to come," said Vice President Lizer.

The Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Programs include the



Agriculture Conservation Corps, Livestock Management, Livestock Management Incentive, and the Farm and Garden Incentive.

"We continue to pray for moisture for our lands, livestock, and our people. Water is life. We have to anticipate drought conditions and we must continue to do more to prepare for the future. With the current funding that is available, we encourage our Navajo farmers and livestock owners to use the funds for immediate needs and to prepare for the coming summer season," stated Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez.

For more information about the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund Programs, please visit the Navajo Nation Department of Agriculture's website at <https://www.agriculture.navajo-nsn.gov/#> or by calling (928) 871-6605.

PRESIDENT NEZ AND VICE PRESIDENT LIZER OFFER CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF NAVAJO VETERAN KAREN LYNN YAZZIE

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer offer condolences to the family and loved ones of Navajo veteran Karen Lynn Yazzie, who passed away at the age of 48. USAF E3 Karen Lynn Yazzie served in the U.S. Air Force for five years.

Yazzie was originally from Coyote Canyon, N.M. She is survived by her three children, Kobe Yazzie, Dron Jones, Maya Lynn Flores, her husband, Luis Flores, and her parents, Burton and Susie Yazzie.



for comfort during this difficult time," said President Nez.

Following her military service, Yazzie resided in Las Vegas, NV, for 17 years and provided for her family as a customer service supervisor for the U.S. Postal Service for over 10 years.

"She was a loving and compassionate mother and woman warrior who served her people. We will always be grateful for her contributions, and we give thanks for her life, and we pray for her family and friends during this time," said Vice President Lizer.

"On behalf of the Navajo people, we offer our thoughts and prayers for the family of the late Karen Lynn Yazzie, a matriarch for her family and a warrior for our Navajo people who served our country with great honor and dignity. To her family and community, we pray

The family of USAF E3 Karen Lynn Yazzie will hold a private funeral service.

“READ ACROSS NAVAJO NATION MONTH” RECOGNIZED TO PROMOTE LITERACY AMONG STUDENTS AND FAMILIES

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, and Second Lady Dottie Lizer signed a proclamation on Wednesday, recognizing March 2022 as “Read Across Navajo Nation Month,” in coordination with “Read Across America” to celebrate the joys of reading and to promote literacy to enhance the lives of Navajo students and families. The signing ceremony was held at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz., with Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge and Navajo Nation Library Program Supervisor Donovan Pete in attendance.

“Celebrating the joy of reading together, as a community and a Nation, inspires our children to read, which is an important factor in their pursuit of higher education and a better quality of life. Reading can significantly benefit a child’s language skills, academic success, family bonds, concentration, creativity, imagination, and awareness. Committed families, educators, and community members can make a huge difference in our children’s reading ability and development,” said President Nez.

The proclamation states that reading to children is proven to develop language skills, expand vocabulary, build self-confidence, boost imagination, cultivate their awareness of the world around them, and strengthen family and community bonds.

“By signing this proclamation, we are re-committing ourselves to pave a path to literacy. Together, we can begin a tradition to read at bedtime, gather in classrooms for story time, create community book clubs, and visit our school or community libraries. Books can help build our children’s future,” said Vice President Lizer.

During the signing ceremony, the leaders also read portions of Dr. Seuss books in celebration of Dr. Seuss’s birthday on March 2, which brings thousands of schools, libraries, and community centers across the country together to encourage reading and learning among youth.

“During Read Across Navajo Nation Month, we encourage families to read together and to inspire all children and youth to read. This month, take the time to incorporate reading into your children’s schedule and routine. Reading to your child – at any age – will boost their confidence, brain development, creativity, and language

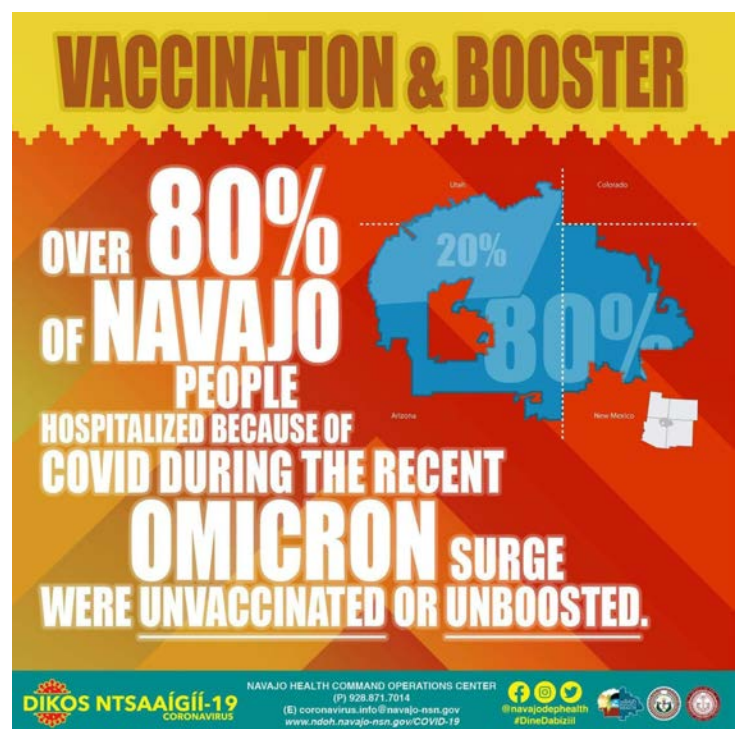
skills. Reading also provides a wonderful opportunity for parents to connect with their children. It’s a wonderful way to spend time together after a long day of errands, chores, school, or work,” said First Lady Nez.

“Today, we are grateful for the Navajo Nation Library and their efforts to cultivate an awareness of the importance of reading. The Office of the First Lady and Second Lady has shared interest in promoting literacy. We are committed to a partnership in expanding upon initiatives such as this,” Second Lizer stated.



Miss Navajo Nation Niagara Rockbridge stated, “It is said that 95-percent of a child’s brain is developed by the age of five. With that in mind, it’s important to practice early childhood literacy by reading books such as Cat in the Hat, Green Eggs and Ham, One Fish, and Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish. These were some of my favorites growing up and being in school indulging in books like Green Eggs and Ham. I encourage parents to pick up a book and read to your children.”

In observance of “Read Across Navajo Nation Month,” the Navajo Nation Library will host virtual story times led by guest readers and provide free books on the library’s social media pages. For more details, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/NavajoNationLibrary>. The Office of the President and Vice President thanks the Navajo Nation Library, Office of Miss Navajo Nation, and the Department of Diné Education for their support.



PRESIDENT NEZ ADDRESSES THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW BEFORE THE WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS

On January 31st, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez spoke about infrastructure development on the Navajo Nation, during the White House Council on Native American Affairs' virtual inaugural engagement session, which provided an opportunity for tribal leaders to have meaningful input on the policies and deliveries of the Biden-Harris Administration. The second part of the session focused on missing person issues in tribal communities.

The White House Council on Native American Affairs was first established by former President Barack Obama in 2013, to improve the coordination of federal programs and the use of available federal resources for the benefit of tribal communities. The Biden-Harris Administration re-established the Council, which is co-chaired by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland and White House Domestic Policy Advisor Ambassador Susan Rice. Other members include the heads of federal Departments, Agencies, and Offices.

"Tribal nations have a seat at the table with the Biden-Harris Administration. Today's engagement session is another step in the right direction to having our voices heard by the White House and federal agencies on key issues related to the Infrastructure Law that was signed by President Biden and missing persons issues as they relate to the Executive Order issued by the White House last November. We have to continue working together and keeping the lines of communication open in order to keep this momentum going to help our tribal communities," said President Nez.

During the session, President Nez highlighted the need to streamline the approval process for completing environmental assessments and securing rights of ways to expedite infrastructure development in tribal communities. Last year, the Nez-Lizer Administration developed a transportation white paper titled, "Diné Atiin Bahane: Navajo Road Emergence," requesting the federal government to enact seven specific policy changes to improve the Navajo Nation's transportation system.

"Many of the projects funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will take years to come to fruition because of the various layers of approval required to build any kind of infrastructure. We need to be able to streamline the approval process. We circulated a white paper detailing these issues and we can work to overcome this. Once again, we urge this Administration to improve these administrative processes. Without doing so, it will take years for tribal communities to reap the benefits promised to them in the Infrastructure Law," added President Nez.

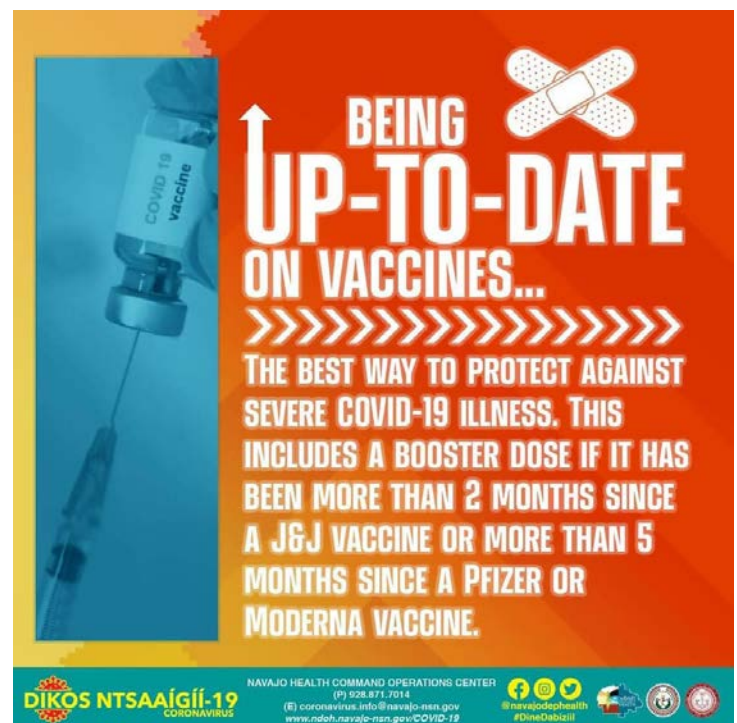
He also recognized and thanked several Biden-Harris cabinet members who recently visited the Navajo Nation and those who have met with Navajo leaders including, U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm, EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan, and

Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg.

Federal officials also received comments from tribal leaders regarding the Biden-Harris Administration's Executive Order issued last November, directing federal officials to work hand in hand with tribal nations and tribal partners to build safe and healthy communities and to support comprehensive law enforcement, prevention, intervention, and support services to help address missing and murdered Indigenous people.

Under the leadership of Secretary Haaland, the Bureau of Indian Affairs established a missing and murdered unit to focus on analyzing and solving missing and murdered cases involving Native American people. During Monday's session, she reaffirmed her commitment and stated that the Biden-Harris Administration would be moving forward with consultations with tribes, in accordance with the Executive Order signed in November.

The White House Council on Native American Affairs will continue hosting the tribal leader engagement session three times a year, in addition to the annual White House Tribal Nation Summit. The Nez-Lizer Administration thanks the Biden-Harris Administration and will continue working closely with its federal partners on key issues including infrastructure development and missing persons.



NAVAJO OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS & ID RESOURCE SHEET FOR ARPA HARDHSHIP ASSISTANCE

The Navajo Office of Vital Records & ID (NOVRI) is providing limited services in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. All BIA offices are closed to the public until further notice. Therefore, all requests (for new enrollment, copies of CIB, BIA Form-4432, or Affidavit of Birth) are being handled via mail or fax. (with notarized statement).

However, onsite window services are available at both the Ft. Defiance and Crownpoint agency offices from 9 am to 3 pm. Note, COVID-19 safety protocols will be enforced such as wearing a facemask and social distancing. Please be advised that NOVRI is currently experiencing a high-volume of enrollment/document requests and telephone calls. Staff are working to the best of their ability to meet the needs of the people.

Eligibility

Any person who is at least one-fourth degree Navajo blood, but who has not previously been enrolled as a member of the Navajo Nation, is eligible for membership and enrollment. Children born to any enrolled member of the Navajo Nation shall automatically become members of the Navajo Nation and shall be enrolled, provided they are at least one-fourth degree Navajo blood.

NOVRI – Central Agency PO Box 2527 Chinle, AZ 86503 Phone: (928) 674-2387/2279 Fax: (928) 674-2280 novri_chinle@navajo-nsn.gov #500,00 Series	NOVRI – Eastern Agency PO Box 148 Crownpoint, NM 87313 Phone: (505) 786-2034/2377/2371 Fax: (505) 786-2037 novri_crownpoint@navajo-nsn.gov #400,000 Series	NOVRI – Fort Defiance Agency PO Box 290 Fort Defiance, AZ 86504 Phone: (928) 871-7210/7211/7212 Fax: (928) 871-6397 novri_ftdefiance@navajo-nsn.gov #600,000 Series
NOVRI – Northern Agency PO Box 60 Shiprock, NM 87420 Phone: (505) 368-1371/1334/1373 Fax: (505) 368-1134 novri_shiprock@navajo-nsn.gov #200,000 Series	NOVRI – Western Agency PO Box 1510 Tuba City, AZ 86045 Phone: (928) 283-3425/3404 Fax: (928) 283-3378 novri_tubacity@navajo-nsn.gov #300,000 Series	NOVRI – Administration PO Box 3240 Window Rock, AZ 86515 Phone: (928) 871-6386/7732 Fax: (928) 871-6397 novri@navajo-nsn.gov

New Enrollment (required documents)

- Child's original Birth Certificate
- Parent(s) original Birth Certificate(s)
- Parent(s) original CIB(s)
- All documents must be original, NOVRI will not accept copies.
- If one parent is from enrolled with a different tribe, it is best to have both parents present when requesting for services and/or providing their tribal specific CIB.

Enrollment through Mail Request - Please provide a **NOTARIZED LETTER** with the following information:

- Child's Name, Date of Birth
- Child's original or state-certified copy Birth Certificate
- Notate parent name(s), Date of Birth(s), Census Number(s)
- If one parent is not Navajo/non-Native, please note their name, Date of Birth, and ethnicity
- If from a different tribe, please provide a non-enrollment verification from other tribe.
- Number of copies and reason for request
- Return mailing address to send documents
- Phone number and/or email (contact information)
- This information cannot be faxed or emailed because original Birth Certificates must be verified by NOVRI.